

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRASIL 03034 01 OF 02 301355Z

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 PC-04 OMB-01 DRC-01 OPR-02 NIC-01

EUR-25 SCCT-02 /155 W

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R 301230Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3042

INFO AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BRASILIA 3034

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BR

SUBJ: UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNREST IN SAO PAULO

1. FOLLOWING IS BASED ON INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM CONGEN
SAO PAULO:

2. SUMMARY: UNIVERSITY OF SAO PAULO CONTINUES IN STATE
OF FERMENT, BUT REPORTED RELEASE OF BULK OF STUDENT DETAINEES
APPEARS TO HAVE DEFLATED A MAJOR EXACERBANT TO THE LEVEL OF
TENSION. ANTI-GOVERNMENT SOURCES ALLEGE THAT THE AGITATORS
WOULD NEVER HAVE RECEIVED THE LEVEL OF SUPPORT THEY WERE
ABLE TO MUSTER HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR SAO PAULO STATE POLICE'S
PRECIPITOUS ACTION IN ARRESTING STUDENTS AND OTHERS. THEY
THEORIZE THAT THERE MAY BE SERIOUS DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
LOCAL SECURITY MEN AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT POLITICAL LEADERS
OVER HOW TO DEAL WITH STUDENT DISSATISFACTION. THEY
ATTRIBUTE ULTERIOR MOTIVES TO THE POLICE RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE ARRESTS. ASIDE FROM THESE DETENTIONS,
UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY RESTRAINED
IN DEALING WITH THE CHALLENGE. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS
OF TORTURE THUS FAR. HAVING REAWAKENED STUDENT INTEREST
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PAGE 02 BRASIL 03034 01 OF 02 301355Z

IN BOTH CAMPUS AND NATIONAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS, ACTIVISTS'

STRATEGY MAY BE TO CONCENTRATE FIRST ON REORGANIZING STUDENT UNIONS ALONG MORE MILITANT BASIS. NEWLY CREATED "COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS" DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE PROGRESSED, HOWEVER, AND THE MUCH VAUNTED ALLIANCE WITH OTHER POPULAR SECTORS APPEARS TO BE MORE AN UNFULFILLED OBJECTIVE THAN A REALITY. END SUMMARY.

3. SINCE RESUMPTION OF CLASSES APRIL 15, USP'S MAIN CAMPUS CONTINUES IN STATE OF EFFERVESCENCE WITH STUDENT MEETINGS AND ASSEMBLIES CONTINUING TO BE SCHEDULED AND PLETHORA OF COMMUNIQUEES BEING EMITTED BY THE STUDENT CENTERS OF VARIOUS SCHOOLS AND DEPARTMENTS AS WELL AS IN NAME OF THE NEWLY FORMED "COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN BRAZIL." HOWEVER, THE TENSION LEVEL APPEARS TO HAVE PEAKED SOMEWHAT AND THE SENSE OF URGENCY DISSIPATED TO SOME DEGREE IN LAST TWO WEEKS WITH THE CIRCULATION OF REPORTS THAT A NUMBER OF THE STUDENTS DETAINED BY POLICE HAD BEEN RELEASED AND HAD NOT BEEN TORTURED. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF VIOLENCE ON CAMPUS, NOR DOES THE CONGEN HAVE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION TO SUPPORT THE PRESUMPTION THAT STUDENT RINGLEADERS ARE PREPARING A GENERAL UNIVERSITY-WIDE STRIKE, AT LEAST IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

4. THE LITERATURE CIRCULATING ON CAMPUS RANGES IN STYLE AND CONTENT FROM GRUMBLING OVER ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES OF PAROCHIAL CONCERN, SUCH AS THE RISE IN CAFETERIA PRICES, TO AN ALL-OUT IDEOLOGICAL BARRAGE AGAINST THE UNDERLYING TENETS OF "THE BRAZILIAN MIRACEL" AND "THE SYSTEM" ITSELF, WHICH ONE FLYER CHARACTERIZES AS A "MILITARY DICTATORSHIP" AT THE SERVICE OF "MONOPOLIST CAPITALISM." A NUMBER OF MIMEOGRAPH MACHINES ARE AT WORK, REFLECTING POSSIBLE DISAGREEMENT AMONG STUDENT GROUPS OVER TACTICAL APPROACH AND PERHAPS DIFFERING POLITICAL POINTS OF VIEW AS WELL.

5. JUDGING FROM THE OUTWARD CALM RECENTLY PREVAILING ON CAMPUS AND FROM THE THRUST OF SOME OF THE CIRCULARS, THE CONGEN SPECULATES THAT STUDENT ACTIVISTS MAY NOW BE FOCUSING ON MOBILIZING THE STUDENT BODY TO SUPPORT THE OVERHAUL AND REORGANIZATION OF HERETOFORE DORMANT ACADEMIC CENTERS INTO MORE MILITANT STUDENT UNIONS WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF RECREAT-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRASIL 03034 01 OF 02 301355Z

ING A DIRECTORIO CENTRAL DOS ESTUDANTES ON THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL AND REVIVING, ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL, AN INTER-UNIVERSITY STUDENT ORGANIZATION AKIN TO THE OUTLAWED NATIONAL STUDENTS' UNION (UNE).

6. AUTHORITIES BASICALLY SEE THE PROBLEM IN TERMS OF A "SMALL MINORITY OF COMMUNIST TROUBLEMAKERS ON CAMPUS FINANCED AND DIRECTED FROM ABROAD" WHO ARE TESTING

THE NEW GEISEL GOVERNMENT, SEEKING TO DETERMINE TO WHAT EXTENT, IF ANY, IT PLANS TO PERMIT GREATER FREEDOM OF POLITICAL ACTION. USP RECTOR ORLANDO MARQUES DE PAIVA TOLD CONGEN OFFICERS THAT THE RINGLEADERS INCLUDED MEMBERS OF WELL-KNOWN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS, CASSADOS, AND OTHERS CLEARLY COMING UNDER THE NATIONAL SECURITY LAWS' DEFINITION OF "SUBVERSIVE." HE STATED THAT THOSE ARRESTED INCLUDED NOT ONLY USP STUDENTS BUT CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, ACADEMICIANS, AND OTHER OUTSIDERS AND THAT THEY HAD BEEN CAUGHT IN THE ACT OF CONSPIRING ILLEGALLY AGAINST ESTABLISHED ORDER. WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT THERE WERE UNUSUAL POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES COINCIDING WITH THE START OF THE ACADEMIC SEMESTER THIS YEAR--THE INAUGURATION OF A NEW ADMINISTRATION, EXPIRATION OF THE 10-YEAR TERMS OF THE ORIGINAL CASSATION ORDERS, ETC.--THE RECTOR MAINTAINED THAT STUDENT UNREST WAS CYCLICAL IN NATURE AND TO BE EXPECTED AT THIS TIME OF YEAR.

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 03034 02 OF 02 301424Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BRASILIA 3034

7. MDB SOURCES, ARCHDIOCESAN ATTORNEYS AND OTHERS OPPOSED TO MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN BRAZIL, ON THE OTHER HAND, UNIFORMLY ALLEGE THAT THE CAMPUS UNREST WAS A SPONTANEOUS DEVELOPMENT PRECIPITATED BY THE DEOPS ARREST OF ABOUT 30 STUDENT LEADERS AND PROFESSORS AND "INVITATION" TO OTHER

TO APPEAR AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS FOR QUESTIONING. OPPOSITION SOURCES MAINTAIN THAT THE FLURRY OF COMPLAINTS AND STRIKES OVER ADMINISTRATIVE SHORTCOMINGS (MEDICAL SCHOOL RESIDENCIES, CAFETERIA FOOD PRICES, ETC.) DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH CONSISTED OF UNDIRECTED, ISOLATED EVENTS UNCONNECTED TO THE FLARE-UP OVER STUDENT ARRESTS WHICH, THEY SAY, HAD A CATALYTIC EFFECT ON THE STUDENTS. THESE SOURCES SPECULATE THAT THE ARRESTS MAY HAVE BEEN A DELIBERATELY PROVOCATIVE ACT SPARKED BY HARDLINERS AMONG SAO PAULO STATE SECURITY FORCES EITHER TO JUSTIFY THEIR EXISTENCE TO THE NEW FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN BRASILIA OR TO CREATE OBSTACLES IN THE WAY OF ANY POSSIBLE MOVE TOWARD A RELAXATION OF SECURITY MEASURES. THEY ESPECIALLY ACCUSE POLICE INSPECTOR SERGIO FLEURY OF HAVING INSTIGATED THE ARRESTS IN AN ATTEMPT TO STAY THE HAND OF JUSTICE WITH RESPECT TO HIS OWN MURDER TRIAL BY PROVING HIS INDISPENSABILITY TO THE GEISEL ADMINISTRATION. CURIOUSLY, THE MINEDUCATION'S CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRASIL 03034 02 OF 02 301424Z

LOCAL SECURITY CHIEF LENT SOME CREDIBILITY TO THIS THESIS WHEN HE TOLD CONGEN OFFICERS THAT A HORNETS' NEST INITIALLY HAD BEEN STIRRED UP BETWEEN STATE POLICE AUTHORITIES AND FEDERAL POLITICAL LEADERS OVER HOW TO DEAL WITH THE UNIVERSITY UNREST IN SAO PAULO. (HE NOW SAYS THERE IS CENTRALIZED DIRECTION FROM COMMANDER SECOND ARMY, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTAINING THE SITUATION AND IDENTIFYING THE RINGLEADERS.)

8. MDB, CHURCH AND LAWYER SOURCES HAVE DOWNPLAYED TO CONGEN OFFICERS THEIR ROLE IN THE FORMATION APRIL 5 OF THE "COMMITTEE FOR DEFENSE" AND THE DEGREE TO WHICH THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO SUPPORT ITS ACTIONS. THEY WERE NOT NEARLY AS SANGUINE ABOUT THE EFFICACY OF A POPULAR ALLIANCE TO "FREE POLITICAL PRISONERS" AND FIGHT FOR "FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATION" AS THEY MAY HAVE LED STUDENT ACTIVISTS TO BELIEVE AT THE APRIL 5 RALLY. MDB STATE DEPUTIES HAVE EXPLAINED THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE RALLY AS A RESPONSE TO FELT NEED TO DO A BETTER JOB IN APPEALING TO THE STUDENT AND YOUTH VOTE IN THE 1974 CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS THAN THEY HAVE DONE IN THE PAST. WHILE STATING THAT THE MATTER WAS STILL UNDER REVIEW WITHIN THE PARTY, MINORITY LEADERS IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CAST SERIOUS DOUBT ON THE DEPTH OF THE PARTY'S COMMITMENT. CHURCH SOURCES SAID THAT LAWYER JOSE (NOT JOAO AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED) CARLOS DIAS' APPEARANCE AT THE RALLY WAS IN DIRECT RESPONSE TO AN APPEAL BY STUDENT LEADERS TO CARDINAL-ARCHBISHOP ARNS TO SUPPORT THE EFFORT TO GET THE AUTHORITIES TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE STUDENT DETENTIONS AND TO GUARANTEE THE INVIOABILITY OF THEIR PERSONS AS WELL AS JUDICIAL DUE PROCESS. DIAS TOLD CONGEN OFFICERS THAT

THE CARDINAL HAS CONCURRED WITH HIS ADVICE THAT THE ARCHDIOCESE SHOULD NOT PARTICIPATE AS A FORMAL MEMBER FO THE COMMITTEE.

9. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT IT IS ALWAYS HAZARDOUS TO DRAW CONCLUSIONS FROM UNAUTHENTICATED MANIFESTOS, THE CONGEN NOTES THAT AT LEAST ONCE COMMUNIQUE CLAIMING TO SPEAK FOR THE STUDENT CENTERS OF THE SCHOOLS OF SOCIAL SCIENCE, PHILOSOPHY, LETTERS AND PSYCHOLOGY BELITTLES THE MDB AS BEING A REACTIONARY, OPPORTUNIST "NONPARTY" AND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRASIL 03034 02 OF 02 301424Z

ACCUSES THE CHURCH OF BEING INTERESTED ONLY IN "DEFENDING ITS LANDS AND PRIVILEGED POSITION." MOREOVER, NOTWITHSTANDING THE MINEDUCATION SECURITY CHIEF'S STATEMENT THAT WORKERS WERE JOINING THE STUDENTS' MOVEMENT, THE CONGEN IS SKEPTICAL THAT WORKERS IN ANY SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS WOULD BE WILLING TO ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE DRAWN INTO A POLITICAL MOVEMENT ORIGINATING IN THE UNIVERSITY.

10. ADJUNCT-BISHOP DOM BENEDITO ULHOA VIEIRA, WHOM THE CONGEN CONSULTED TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE STUDENT PROBLEM HAD CAST ANY SHADOWS OVER THE CHURCH'S EXPECTATION OF AN IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS WITH THE GEISEL ADMINISTRATION, REPLIED THAT NOTHING HAS HAPPENED YET WHICH WOULD LEAD THE ARCHDIOCESE TO DOUBT THE SI
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